

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) Ball-point pen (1,11) comprising a reservoir (2) communicating with a hole (10) connected to a capillary channel (3) of a tip (4) which is provided with a cavity (9) which seats the ball (5) for writing, this ball (5) being kept pressed against a retaining edge (9t) of the abovementioned cavity (9) as a result of the thrust of a compression-resilient spring (6) terminating in a straight portion (6r) which is aligned with the longitudinal axis (N-N) of the ball-point pen (1) and the free end (6p) of which is in contact with the said ball (5), wherein said capillary channel (3) has, inside it, means (7,7') which, coming into contact with the said straight portion (6r) of the spring (6), prevent it from becoming inclined with respect to the said longitudinal axis (N-N) of the ball-point pen (1), wherein the said capillary channel (3) has a narrow section (7,7') which, being passed through in the axial direction by the said straight portion (6r) of the spring (6), is designed with dimensions such as to contain said portion in an approximately complementary manner with a minimum amount of play, substantially preventing it from assuming inclined positions with respect to the abovementioned

longitudinal axis (N-N), and wherein said straight portion (6r) consists of only a single straight portion extending from a distalmost end in contact with the ball (5) towards a coiled portion (6) of the spring, the entire single straight portion being located on the longitudinal axis (N-N) of the ball-point pen (1).

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) Ball-point pen according to claim 1, in which one or more through-grooves (8i) are formed in the region of the said narrow section (7), said through-grooves connecting the cavity (9) inside which the said ball is seated to the hole (10) with which the said reservoir (2) communicates.

4. (Previously presented) Ball-point pen according to claim 1, in which the said narrow section is formed by a cylindrical shaped restriction (7).

5. (Withdrawn) Ball-point pen according to claim 1, in which the said narrow section is defined by a ring (12) with a semi-circular cross section projecting towards the inside of the capillary channel (3) having its axis coinciding with the longitudinal axis (N-N) of the ball-point pen (1).

6. (Previously presented) Ball-point pen according to claim 3, in which the said narrow section is formed by a cylindrical shaped restriction (7).

7. (Withdrawn) Ball-point pen according to claim 3, in which the said narrow section is defined by a ring (12) with a semi-circular cross section projecting towards the inside of the capillary channel (3) having its axis coinciding with the longitudinal axis (N-N) of the ball-point pen (1).

8. (previously presented) Ball-point pen according to claim 1, wherein a cross section through the said narrow section (7,7') on a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis (N-N) defines a circular opening surrounding said straight portion (6r).